

symbol "pBR322ori", a replication origin exerting in Escherichia coli; the symbol "GST", a structural gene of glutathione S-transferase; and the symbol "Ptac", a Tac promotor.

IN THE CLAIMS

Delete claims 17-19 and in place thereof add new independent claims 20-22 as follows:

20. (New) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin, and which encodes the whole of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary nucleotide sequence.

21. (New) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin, and which encodes the whole of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or its complementary nucleotide sequence.

22. (New) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin, and which encodes the whole of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or its complementary nucleotide sequence.

Amend claims 2 (twice amended), 6, 7, 11 (amended), 12 (amended), 13 and 14 as follows (attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the

current amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"):

2. (Thrice Amended) The DNA of claim 20, and which contains the whole of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or its complementary nucleotide sequence.

6. (Amended) The DNA of any one of claims 2, 3, 4, 20, 21 or 22, which is inserted into an autonomously replicable vector.

7. (Amended) The DNA of claim 6, which is introduced into an appropriate host.

11. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a desert hedgehog protein of human origin, which comprises expressing a DNA of claim 7 to generate said desert hedgehog protein of human origin, and collecting the generated desert hedgehog protein of human origin.

12. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin is expressed through culturing of a host cell transformed by introduction of said DNA.

13. (Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein the generated desert hedgehog protein of human origin is collected by one or more methods selected from the group consisting of